

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 08QUITO247, AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CORREA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08QUITO247**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">08QUITO247</a>	<a href="#">2008-03-12 20:58</a>	<a href="#">2011-08-30 01:44</a>	<a href="#">CONFIDENTIAL</a>	<a href="#">Embassy Quito</a>

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.eluniverso.com/2011/04/11/1/1355/cable-145522.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0247/01 0722058  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 122058Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8611  
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7434  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3862  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0755  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2942  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 2477  
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0495  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3076  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 3394  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

id: 145522  
date: 3/12/2008 20:58  
refid: 08QUITO247  
origin: Embassy Quito  
classification: CONFIDENTIAL  
destination: 08QUITO216|08QUITO228  
header:

VZCZCXYZ0000  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQT #0247/01 0722058  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 122058Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8611  
INFO RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 7434  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 3862  
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0755  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2942  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 2477  
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0495  
RUEHSG/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 3076  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 3394  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000247

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/12/2028  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MARR](#) [EC](#) [CO](#) [VE](#)  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CORREA

REF: A. QUITO 216  
[1](#)B. QUITO 228

Classified By: Ambassador Linda Jewell for reasons 1.4 (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: Meeting with the Ambassador on March 12, President Correa made clear that he wanted to continue working with the United States, including in Ecuador's northern border region. He again vehemently denied an inappropriate relationship with the FARC, saying that would not be in his interest. The Ambassador offered assurances that the Manta FOL was not involved in supporting the Colombian incursion and provided information on the Embraer Super Tucano to dispel suggestions it was not capable of carrying out the Colombian operation. Correa was unsure what to expect out of the March 17 OAS ministerial meeting. (End Summary)

[1](#)2. (C) President Correa quickly responded to the Ambassador's request for a meeting, scheduling it for 12:30 pm March 12, his first day back in the office following his Chile trip. The meeting was one-on-one. Correa appeared more relaxed than he had at their March 3 meeting (Ref A). The Ambassador told Correa she was there to see where we are and what type of relationship with the United States he wanted going forward. She pointed out that many in his Administration are waiting for a signal from Correa on how to treat the United States.

[1](#)3. (C) Correa assured her that he wanted to continue working with the United States, noting that he likes the U.S. and has many ties with us. However, he reiterated his disappointment in the USG stance on the Colombian incursion. Specifically, Correa expressed concern about continued Department comments on Ecuador's relationship with the FARC. He again vehemently denied any inappropriate relationship, saying that he had never met a FARC member and that there would be no benefit for him in establishing such a relationship. Correa said it was not that he was tolerating the FARC or letting it stay in Ecuador, nor had he ever thought of inviting the FARC Secretariat to Quito. He stressed that such actions would

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not be in his interest. Correa recognized that the FARC was at war with the democratically-elected government of

Colombia, and that it could well come after his government next. Correa said he wanted to continue working with the U.S. in the Northern Border region, and lamented the limits to the resources and personnel Ecuador could afford. He cited the pathetic, even humiliating, fact that the Ecuadorian army did not have a working helicopter to quickly mobilize to the scene, and that the radar system for the zone was inoperable.

14. (C) Correa criticized Colombia, saying he could never sanction the execution of wounded individuals, as he believed the Colombian military did in the Reyes camp. He expressed appreciation for Chavez' solidarity, but emphasized that "we (Ecuadorians) are different ('somos otra cosa.')" Asked what he expected from the OAS ministerial, Correa was uncertain what would come out of it.

15. (C) Correa said the problem for him was that it was difficult for him to prove a negative, that he had no ties with the FARC. The Ambassador said we have the same problem with proving that the Forward Operating Location (FOL) in Manta had nothing to do with the Colombian military operation. She provided information showing that Colombia's Super Tucano aircraft, with modifications, could have accomplished the Colombian attack. Correa promised to share the info with the OAS since he had suggested to the delegation, based on reports from his own staff, that the Colombian aircraft would not have been capable.

16. (S) Comment: Correa was clearly still unhappy with the USG. However, he did not sound like he was ready to give up on a constructive relationship with us, and seemed to appreciate the Ambassador asking to see him. He said he favored FM Salvador having a meeting with the Deputy Secretary on the margins of next week,s OAS ministerial, if

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it could be arranged. Correa's denial of an inappropriate relationship with the FARC appeared sincere. It is unclear to us whether Correa knew everything that Minister Larrea put on the table in his discussions with the FARC, or whether Larrea might have been pursuing, at least in part, a personal agenda. Winners and losers among Correa's jockeying inner circle of advisors in the wake of this event remain to seen, as well as possible broader internal policy and personnel fallout. Correa,s actions in the coming days are likely to be telling.  
Jewell

=====CABLE ENDS=====